

A NEW SPECIES OF VERBESINA (ASTERACEAE) FROM DURANGO, MEXICO

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Routine identification of plants from northwestern Mexico has revealed the following novelty. I am grateful to Dr. Guy Nesom for the Latin diagnosis.

VERBESINA DURANGENSIS B. L. Turner, sp. nov.

V. rosei aemulans, differt foliis paucioribus (3 paria) late ellipticis et acheniis sine pappo.

Perennial herb to 50 cm high, arising from a short woody rootstock, the root system fibrous. Stems terete, striate, sparsely strigose, prominently winged between the 3 leafy nodes, otherwise wingless. Leaves opposite, exactly 3 pairs, sessile, elliptic, 3-8 cm long, 2-4 cm wide, pinnately veined, and prominently reticulate, sparsely strigose on both surfaces the margins remotely denticulate, the apices obtuse. Heads borne 2-3 on elongate peduncles 20-30 cm long, the ultimate peduncles 5-8 cm long. Involucre campanulate, 2-3 seriate, ca 6 mm high and 8 mm wide (pressed), sparsely strigose; bracts subequal, mostly blackened, the outer series narrowly spatulate, the inner series linear-lanceolate. Receptacular pales ovate, black with yellow recurved apical cusps. Ray florets 8-13, neuter; corollas yellow, the tube ca 1 mm long, pubescent, the ligules 15-20 mm long, 3.0-4.5 mm wide. Disk florets 30-40; corollas yellow, ca 5 mm long, the tube ca 1 mm long, the lobes ca 1 mm long. Anthers black, ca 3 mm long, the appendages eglandular. Style branches with a short conical appendage, hispid beneath. Achenes (immature) ca 3 mm long, hispid, epappose.

TYPE: MEXICO. DURANGO: Mpio. de Mezquital, alrededores de La Guajolota, area de disturbio en bosque de pino, 16 Aug 1985, I. Solis 229 (TEX; isotypes to be distributed).

The species belongs to the section Pterophyton and is closely related to Verbesina rosei Rob. & Greenm. from Nayarit (lectotype GH!), but differs by its fewer, broadly elliptical, leaves and epappose achenes.